

CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CCC) 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The Commission's mission statement (adopted in 2001): *The Campton Conservation Commission (CCC) believes the community is sustained by its natural landscapes, clean water, forest and agricultural products, and varied habitats for plants and animals. The CCC sees its mission as working to preserve, protect, and properly utilize these resources for current and future residents of the town.*

The Commission continues to manage the 2 town-owned conservation properties: Pattee Conservation Park(PCP) and Blair Woodland Natural Area(BWNA). The field at PCP was not mowed this year, leaving grasses for nesting birds and milkweed for butterflies. The Campton Garden Club continues to partner on care of the Liberty Tree. At BWNA, The Rey Center held 4 Nature Night sessions for families during July and August. Sessions had between 6-15 participants.

The commission manages the town's Conservation Fund. In 2018 \$ 70.00 was deposited from Land Use Change Tax(LUCT), and \$ 20.60 of interest incurred. One withdrawal was made for \$1050 to send two CES students to Barry Camp. The Commission received a \$500 donation for conservation purposes from The Parrish Family which was deposited into the fund. Balance of the fund on 12/31/18 was \$ 207, 043.09.

Continuing activities this year included managing submission of monthly "Conservation Matters" articles to The Record Enterprise. Seven other conservation/natural resource groups in the area take turns writing articles on a variety of topics. Our roadside clean-up took place once this year in spring. Early snows prevented the fall clean-up. We welcome residents' help, particularly those living along the route which changed this year, due to a NHDOT record-keeping snafoo. We now pick up trash the entire length of Blair Road and 175 north of Blair Road for 1.5 miles, near the intersection with Perch Pond Road. We held our sixth annual Frozen Bog Tracking Walk in January, led by Lea Stewart. About 22 participants found a nice variety of animal tracks. January 27, 2019 is the date scheduled for the seventh annual walk.

CCC members continue to stay current in conservation related topics and attended various events and webinars including the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions and DES Groundwater Source Protection conferences, and meetings of the Lakes Region Planning Commission, and Pemi River Local Advisory Committee. Other ongoing work includes the review of wetland permit applications, permits for the Northern Pass project, and outreach to landowners interested in conserving their land. We continue to follow projects on the Beebe River Tract by The Conservation Fund, NH Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited and others as it progresses toward becoming Campton's largest conservation area. We were contacted by a property owner who wanted to acquire the necessary NHDES permitting to install a pond. We made site visits, gave advice, and assisted with paperwork; all resulting in a positive project for the family.

There were some inquiries about visible timber harvesting within the community. The Commission has reached out to our county forester for assistance in reaching out to landowners

with timber resources to help answer questions, plan for sustainable timber harvest practices, Best Management Practices, etc. Look for information we plan to make available on these topics in 2019.

The Friends of the Pemi-Livermore Falls Chapter continues to grow and push towards the goal of revitalizing the recreational, scenic and historic Livermore Falls area. The volunteer effort is led by Plymouth Rotary. CCC members continue to regularly attend meetings with members of the Campton Historical Society, State agency representatives and interested citizens. The West side continues to be unsafe around the old mill, erosion from high water events make the river difficult to access, and legal parking along Rt 3 is limited and confusing. Unfortunately, in 2018, we did not see visible improvements that were hoped for. The east side improvements made in previous years by the State of NH and the Friends group continue to be enjoyed by an increasing number of people floating the river to Plymouth, picnickers and swimmers, and fishermen. For a third summer, there was an archeological study conducted below the falls. More can be learned by reading the Friends of the Pemi annual report or going to their website. Those interested in helping improve this important resource, can contact us or the Campton Historical Society about how to become involved.

David Peeler resigned from the commission in 2018. His enthusiastic service and additions to topics at meeting often brought the commission some fresh thinking. Thank you, David! The commission now stands at 5 members. Those interested in becoming involved should contact the CCC or Select Board, or attend a meeting. CCC meetings are open to the public and are held at the town office, generally on the first Wednesday of each month at 7PM. The topic of the April meeting each year is management of the town's two conservation lands. Public involvement is welcome. We have also stepped into the world of communicating our news, other messages and archived articles through our website: www.camptonconservation.org and Facebook: <https://facebook.com/CamptonConservationCommission>.

Sincerely, (serving since)

Shannon Garnsey(2014), Jessica Halm(2005), Jane Kellogg(1999),

Dick Osborne(2017), Rebecca Steeves(2013)